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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/828,978	04/21/2004	Xiaozhou Wang	JP920030138US1	5356

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EXAMINER

HONEYCUTT, KRISTINA B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 06/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/828,978	Applicant(s) WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner Kristina B. Honeycutt	Art Unit 2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed April 21, 2004 with acknowledged foreign priority filing date August 5, 2003.

This action is made **Non-Final**.

2. Claims 1-15 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 14 are independent claims.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 10/828978, filed on April 21, 2004.

Drawings

4. The drawings filed on April 21, 2004 are accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kusuda (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0016872; publication date August 23, 2001; filed November 30, 2000).

Regarding independent claim 1, Kusuda discloses a server suitable for use in a collaboration system employing a communication network, said server comprising:

- a group session control unit for creating a group session by integrating a plurality of individual sessions and for passing a command to an application execution unit (Figure 1, 2; p.1, para. 4, 5; p.5, para. 53, 55; p.6, para. 62, 63; p.7, para. 68; p.10, para. 107 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a session manager 130 includes a session managing section 131 that assigns session IDs to a plurality of users performing collaboration and then transmits the session ID for issuing a connection to the client application 220 in the information processing terminal 200 of the client computer); and
- a page navigation control unit for providing a web page common to each of the individual sessions (Figure 1, 14; p.1, para. 4; p.7, para. 65, 68; p.8, para. 75; p.10, para. 107; p.11, para. 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a

webpage common to each information processing terminal 200 is provided by the WWW server 300 via the information processing support server 100).

Regarding dependent claim 2, Kusuda discloses the server according to claim 1, further comprising:

- a synchronization control unit for notifying each of individual session destinations of a shared status of the web page (Figures 1, 4, 5, 6; p.1, para. 4; p.5, para. 55; p.6, para. 57; p.7, para. 65, 67; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99, 107; p.11, para. 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a URL list generator 123 generates a URL list containing the updated or modified webpages so that the users in the session sharing the webpage can view the modified webpage); and
- a mutual communication control unit allowing a plurality of the individual session destinations to exchange messages (Figures 1, 4, 5, 6, 13; p.1, para. 4; p.7, para. 65; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99; p.11, para. 113, 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, the client application 220 displays WWW contents that contain messages, such as questions, received from a plurality of users).

Regarding dependent claim 3, Kusuda discloses the server according to claim 1, further comprising initiative switching means for switching ownership of initiative of web page operation (Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; p.1, para. 4; p.7, para. 68, 69; p.9, para. 84, 85 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a customer can makes changes to a

webpage which is displayed to an agent or an agent can make changes that are displayed to the customer. Furthermore, a customer can log-in to the information processing support server 100 and access a webpage to make changes or ask questions and log-out. An agent can also log-in and view changes and questions and respond by adding content to the pages. The log-in procedures are the means for switching ownership).

Regarding dependent claim 4, Kusuda discloses the server according to claim 1, wherein the page navigation control unit includes a page sharing processing unit for creating data by compiling the web page and an identification value corresponding to the data in response to display of a new web page and for storing the data and the identification value in association with each other (Figures 1, 8; p.1, para. 4; p.5, para. 53; p.6, para. 57; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, the URL attached-data control table 162 stores a session ID, a user's log-on ID, date and time, URL and other information when a user modifies or adds questions to a webpage and the URLs are provided in a list for selection. When a URL is selected, the webpage is compiled and displayed to the user or agent).

Regarding independent claim 5, Kusuda discloses a client device suitable for use in a collaboration system employing a communication network, said client device comprising:

- browser means for displaying data received through the network (Figure 1; p.1, para. 4; p.5, para. 53; p.7, para. 64 – as demonstrated in the figure and cited text, a browser 230 is included in the information processing terminal 200 for each client and displays webpages received from servers 300 and 100 through the network 110);
- page navigation means for generating a request transmitted over the network for changing ownership of initiative of operation of a web page to be displayed among a plurality of client devices (Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; p.1, para. 4; p.7, para. 68, 69; p.9, para. 84, 85 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a customer can makes changes to a webpage which is displayed to an agent or an agent can make changes that are displayed to the customer. Furthermore, a customer can log-in to the information processing support server 100 and access a webpage to make changes or ask questions and log-out. An agent can also log-in and view changes and questions and respond by adding content to the pages. The log-in procedures produce the means for navigating pages and switching ownership);
- synchronization control means for synchronizing display of a web page shared by the plurality of client devices (Figure 1, 4, 5, 6, 14; p.1, para. 4; p.5, para. 55; p.6, para. 57; p.7, para. 65, 67, 68; p.8, para. 75; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99, 107; p.11, para. 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a webpage common to each information processing terminal 200 is provided by the WWW server 300 via the information processing support server 100 and a URL list

generator 123 generates a URL list containing the updated or modified webpages so that the users in the session sharing the webpage can view the modified webpage); and

- communication means for communicating over the network with other client devices among the plurality of client devices (Figures 1, 4, 5, 6, 13; p.1, para. 4; p.7, para. 65; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99; p.11, para. 113, 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, the client application 220 displays WWW contents that contain messages, such as questions, received from a plurality of users over the network).

Regarding dependent claim 6, Kusuda discloses the client device according to claim 5, wherein the synchronization control means issues a request for making an inquiry about an identification value of already compiled data of the web page through the network in response to ownership status of initiative of operation of the web page (Figures 1, 4, 5, 6; p.9, para. 85, 92, 93; p.10, para. 99 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, ownership status changes when an agent logs in after a client has logged out and the agent requests a URL list to be generated so that a URL of a webpage that has been modified can be selected and displayed on the browser).

Regarding claims 8, 9, 10 and 11, the claims reflect the computer-executable program for performing the operations of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively and are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 12, Kusuda discloses a computer-executable program for allowing a computer device to function as a client device suitable for use in a collaboration system employing a communication network, said program allowing the computer device to execute:

- a step of communicating a request for changing ownership of initiative of operation of a web page to be displayed among a plurality of client devices (Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; p.1, para. 4; p.7, para. 68, 69; p.9, para. 84, 85 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a customer can makes changes to a webpage which is displayed to an agent or an agent can make changes that are displayed to the customer. Furthermore, a customer can log-in to the information processing support server 100 and access a webpage to make changes or ask questions and log-out. An agent can also log-in and view changes and questions and respond by adding content to the pages. The log-in procedures produce the means for navigating pages and switching ownership);
- a step of allowing the plurality of client devices to share the web page (Figure 1, 4, 5, 6, 14; p.1, para. 4; p.5, para. 55; p.6, para. 57; p.7, para. 65, 67, 68; p.8, para. 75; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99, 107; p.11, para. 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a webpage common to each information processing terminal 200 is provided by the WWW server 300 via the information processing support server 100 and a URL list generator 123

- generates a URL list containing the updated or modified webpages so that the users in the session sharing the webpage can view the modified webpage); and
- a step of allowing the client device to display a message for other client devices among the plurality of client devices (Figures 1, 4, 5, 6, 13; p.1, para. 4; p.7, para. 65; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99; p.11, para. 113, 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, the client application 220 displays WWW contents that contain messages, such as questions, received from a plurality of users over the network).

Regarding independent claim 14, Kusuda discloses a collaboration system for allowing client devices to collaborate through a network, the system comprising:

- a plurality of the client devices connected to the network (Figure 1; p.5, para. 53 – as demonstrated in the figure and cited text, a plurality of information processing terminals 200 are connected to the TCP/IP network 210);
- a server apparatus for receiving requests from the client devices, responding to the client devices, and providing a collaboration environment common to the plurality of client devices (Figure 1; p.5, para. 53, 55 – as demonstrated in the figure and cited text, information processing terminals 200 request and receive webpages from the WWW server 300 via the information processing support server 100 and collaboration is provided through the Web server 120 in the information processing support server 100),

- wherein the server apparatus includes means for providing a group session formed by integrating communication sessions among the plurality of client devices, and means for synchronizing the client devices in the collaboration environment (Figure 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 14; p.1, para. 4, 5; p.5, para. 53, 55; p.6, para. 57, 62, 63; p.7, para. 65, 67, 68; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99, 107; p.11, para. 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a session manager 130 includes a session managing section 131 that assigns session IDs to a plurality of users performing collaboration and then transmits the session ID for issuing a connection to the client application 220 in the information processing terminal 200 of the client computer. A webpage common to each information processing terminal 200 is provided by the WWW server 300 via the information processing support server 100 and a URL list generator 123 generates a URL list containing the updated or modified webpages so that the synchronized users in the session sharing the webpage can view the modified webpage); and
- further wherein each of the client device includes means for synchronizing according to a web page commonly displayed among the plurality of client devices (Figure 1, 14; p.1, para. 4; p.7, para. 65, 68; p.8, para. 75; p.10, para. 107; p.11, para. 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a webpage common to each information processing terminal 200 is provided by the WWW server 300 via the information processing support server 100 and means for synchronizing are disclosed since all users are capable of sharing and viewing information added to WWW contents).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 7, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kusuda in view of Edecker et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0188678; publication date December 12, 2002; filed June 5, 2001).

Regarding dependent claims 7, 13 and 15, Kusuda does not disclose the client device executes virtual shopping with collaboration. Edecker teaches performing collaborative work in a virtual shopping environment (p.4, para. 47). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Kusuda and Edecker before him at the time the invention was made, to modify collaboration as taught by Kusuda to include collaboration with virtual shopping as taught by Edecker, because Kusuda teaches performing collaborations on webpages including a customer counseling system (p.1, para. 4) which is a type of virtual shopping in the sense that there are clients (customers) interacting with agents who are providing a service and

Edecker teaches collaborative work being performed in a virtual shopping environment (p.4, para. 47).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Wong et al. (U.S. Patent 6708172);
- Matsui et al. (U.S. Patent 6401122);
- Balter et al. (U.S. Patent 6901379).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristina B. Honeycutt whose telephone number is 571-272-4123. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

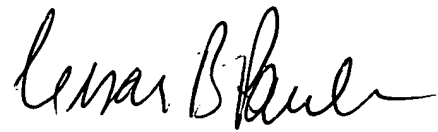
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 2178

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